

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 300497

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR GOVERNOR SCRANTON

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM CARIO DEC 09:

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 16979

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, SC

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FAHMY ON UN RESOLUTION

REF: (A) STATE 296629, (B) STATE 298498

SUMMARY: WENT THROUGH TALKING POINTS WITH FAHMY
AND, AT HIS REQUEST, GAVE HIM COPY FOR USE WITH SADAT.
REACTING NEGATIVELY, FAHMY CLAIMED HE HAD EXPECTED
USG VOTE AGAINST EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION. OUR TALKING
POINTS, WHICH HE CALLED FACTUALLY WRONG IN PLACES,
ARE NO MORE THAN AN EXCUSE TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH HE
PERSONALLY HAD INSISTED ON INCLUSION OF LATE MARCH
DATE FOR RECONVENING OF GENEVA, EGYPTIAN PERMREP
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HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED "ACCOMMODATE" US ON UNSC ISSUE.
HE CHALLENGED US FIND REFERENCE TO PLO IN EGYPTIAN
DRAFT. GOE HAS NO DESIRE CROWD NEW ADMINISTRATION,
BUT CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL TO FLAG PUBLICLY IMPORTANCE

ARAB STATES ATTACH TO EARLY RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. CITING ELECTIONS OR OTHER REASONS, ISRAELIS WILL TRY TO STALL AND USG WILL, BECAUSE OF ITS SINAI II COMMITMENT, GO ALONG. GOE HAS BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS BEFORE. HE CLAIMED RECENT ISRAELI PUBLIC UTTERANCES ARE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THRUST OF EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION. IN ANY CASE, ME DEBATE CANNOT END WITH NOTHING. REGARDLESS OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION, GOE CAN DETERMINE ARAB CONSENSUS ON WHEN GENEVA SHOULD BE RECONVENED. IF IT DEVELOPS MARCH IS TOO SOON, DATE CAN BE SWITCHED TO APRIL IN LIGHT CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION. FAHMY'S NEGATIVE REACTION COMPOUNDED BY REPORT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM MOHAMED RIAD OF LATTER'S TALK WITH YOU. FAHMY SCOFFED THAT "COMMON STRATEGY," OF WHICH WE SPEAK, HAS NOT EXISTED FOR SOME TIME. I STRONGLY REFUTED THESE VARIOUS POINTS AND CONSTANTLY STRESSED NEED TO GIVE NEW ADMINISTRATION ADEQUATE TIME TO STUDY THE PROBLEM AND DETERMINE ITS OPTIONS. AT END OF OUR TALK, WHILE FAHMY WAS UNREPENTANT AND MADE IT CLEAR GOE WANTS VOTE TAKEN ON ITS RESOLUTION, HE DID INDICATE GOE HAS NO DESIRE TO FORCE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO HAVE TO TAKE PREMATURE DECISIONS ON ISSUES INHERENT IN ME CONFLICT. TIMING CAN BE WORKED OUT IN LIGHT FUTURE CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY

1. HAVE JUST COME FROM A LONG MEETING WITH FAHMY DURING WHICH WE DISCUSSED THE EGYPTIAN UNGA RESOLUTION. I CAREFULLY WENT THROUGH THE TALKING POINTS AS REVISED BE REFTEL B AND, PURSUANT TO YOUR INTIAL INSTRUCTIONS, EMPHASIZED THAT THE ISSUE IS SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU WOULD APPRECIATE HIS CONVEYING YOUR VIEWS TO SADAT. FAHMY HAD NO ONE WITH HIM AND DID NOT HIMSELF TAKE NOTES. SINCE WE WANTED THE MATTER BE CONVEYED TO SADAT, HE ASKED THAT WE CONSIDER THE PRESENTATION AS AN ORAL MESSAGE AND ASKED FOR A SECRET

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COPY. I GAVE IT TO HIM TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

2. FAHMY'S REACTION WAS NEGATIVE. HE VIEWED OUR DEMARCHE, WHICH HE CALLED FACTUALLY WRONG, AS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY OUR VOTING AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. HE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD NEVER THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD VOTE FOR IT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH GOE MIGHT AGREE TO AMEND IT. HE CHARGED THIS ID DUE TO THE COMMITMENT THAT WE MADE TO ISRAEL DURING SINAI II, WHICH TIES OUR HANDS. WE SPEAK OF A "COMMON STRATEGY," BUT THERE HAS IN FACT BEE NO SUCH THING FOR SOME TIME. I INTERJECTED THAT HE WAS TOTALLY WRONG, BUT FAHMY CHARGED THAT ANY SUCH

DENIAL IS SOPHISTRY.

3. AS HE WENT OVER THE POINTS AGAIN, HE BRISTLED SOME MORE. WHAT DID WE EXPECT TO COME OUT OF THE ME DEBAT--NOTHING? THIS IS WHAT THE ISRAELIS WANT, BUT GOE MUST ACT TO PROTECT ITS OWN INTERESTS. GOE HAD AT LEAST MADE AN EFFORT TO CONSULT WITH US IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK BEFORE PRESENTING ITS RESOLUTION, WHICH IS MORE THAN ISRAEL HAD DONE WITH RESPECT TO ITS RESOLUTION. FAHMY CONTENDED THE EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION IS REASONABLE AND THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED EGYPTIAN PERMREP ABDEL MEGUID TO "ACCOMMODATE" US ON THE PARAGRAPH THAT REQUESTS THE UNSC TO CONVENE SUBSEQUENT TO THE SUBMISSION BY THE SYG OF HIS REPORT ON THE ME SITUATION. HE HAD NOT HEARD WHETHER ABDEL MEGUID HAD DONE SO, BUT KNEW THAT EGYPTIAN PERMREP HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR SCRANTON. NOR DID HE KNOW WHAT THE REACTION OF THE OTHER ARAB AND NONALIGNED STATES MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE UNSC LANGUAGE.

4. REGARDING THE PROVISION CALLING FOR RESUMPTION OF GENEVA NOT LATER THAN THE END OF MARCH, THIS HAD BEEN INSERTED AT FAHMY'S SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION. AS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE VARIOUS CODELS AND THROUGH OTHER MEDIA, GOE BELIEVES THERE IS URGENCY TO RECONVENING GENEVA. HE CHARGED THAT WE DO NOT WANT GENEVA BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS REALLY DO NOT WANT
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IT, NOTWITHSTANDING SOME OF THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY. NOTING SECRETARY OF STATE DESIGNATE VANCE'S RECENT COMMENT THAT THE ME WILL BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY, FAHMY ARGUED THAT TWO MONTHS SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO BE ABLE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ISSUE. IN ANY CASE, HE, FAHMY, COULD CONTROL WHEN GENEVA MEETS. IF THE END OF MARCH IS TOO SOON, IT CAN MEET IN APRIL. BUT GOE FEELS IT ESSENTIAL TO FLAG PUBLICLY THE FACT THAT RECONVENING GENEVA IS URGENT. AT THIS POINT, HE REITERATED HIS COMPLAINT OF TWO DAYS AGO THAT OUR APPARENT INABILITY TO SETTLE THE EASTERN GULF OF SUEZ OIL DRILLING ISSUE HARDLY GIVES GOE ANY CONFIDENCE IN OUR WILLINGNESS OR ABILITY TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE FAR MORE COMPLEX OVERALL ME PROBLEM.

5. I TOLD FAHMY THAT, AS HE WELL KNEW, THE OVERALL ME PROBLEM AND THE OIL DRILLING ISSUES ARE SEPARATE MATTERS. ON THE OIL DRILLING ISSUE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOUR POINTS WHICH YOU HAD WORKED OUT WITH ALLON OFFER A PRACTICAL WAY TO PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY. ON THE OVERALL ME PEACE SETTLEMENT, HE KNEW FULL WELL

THAT WE SHARE THE GOE VIEW THAT A RESUMPTION OF THE PEACE PROCESS IS URGENT. HOWEVER, SPECIFYING A MARCH DATE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF GENEVA, AS THE EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION DOES, IS HARDLY HELPFUL AND COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MUST BE GIVEN ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUAINT ITSELF WITH THE PROBLEM AND TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED. AS BOTH PRESIDENT SADAT AND HE HAD EARLIER AGREED, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT BE CROWDED INTO HAVING TO TAKE POSITIONS BEFORE IT HAS HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY THE MATTER. I RECALLED SADAT HAD TOLD CODEL RIBICOFF THAT, WHILE HE WANTED GENEVA TO BE RECONVENED ASAP, HE WOULD BE SATISFIED IF RECONVENING TAKES PLACE IN LATE SPRING.

6. FAHMY RETORTED THAT ISRAEL'S POSITIONS, AS EXPRESSED BY RAIN, PERES AND ALLON IN THEIR MANY RECENT PUBLIC UTTERANCES, MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR EGYPT TO SPELL OUT AN EARLY DATE. GOE HAS BEEN THROUGH THE
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DIPLOMATIC PROCRASTINATION PROCESS BEFORE. ALREADY THE ISRAELIS ARE TALKING ABOUT MOVING UP THEIR ELECTIONS FROM OCTOBER. IF THEY DO SO, GO WILL THEN BE TOLD BY USG THAT NOTHING CAN BE DONE UNTIL THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS ARE OVER. THEREAFTER, THE ISRAELIS WILL FIND SOME OTHER EXCUSE TO DELAY AND USG WILL GO ALONG WITH IT. IN 1978, OUR CONGRESSIONAL BY-ELECTIONS COME AND SO ON. THE PEACE PROCESS, FAHMY ASSERTED, WILL BE INDEFINITELY STALLED UNLESS SOME
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